



IPWP 643

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : David J. Luneau

Art Unit : 2643

Serial No. : 10/082,403

Examiner : Taylor, Barry W.

Filed : February 25, 2002

Title : LOOP TEST APPARATUS AND METHOD

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION DATED FEBRUARY 4, 2005

The independent claims of the present application—claims 1, 16, 20, and 26—stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over Zitting, U.S. Patent No. 6,584,148, and Pugaczewski, U.S. Patent No. 6,643,266.

However, claims 1, 20, and 26 all require data transmission in accordance with the GR-30 standard, the typical standard used in Caller-ID communications. Specifically, claim 1 recites that the data detector “is configured to detect data encoded in accordance with the GR-30 standard.” The Loop Test Message includes data other than caller-identification data of the loop test server, and essentially acts as a signal that allows the loop test process to be initiated (“wherein the processor monitors the signals provided at the output of the data detector for a Loop Test Message from the loop test server and provides a termination signal to the input of the telephone line terminator in response to the receipt of the Loop Test Message”).

Likewise, both claim 20 and claim 26 recite that “the Loop Test Message includes data encoded in accordance with the GR-30 standard other than caller-identification data of the loop test server”. As in claim 1, the Loop Test Message is the signal that allows the loop test to be initiated (claim 20: “hook switch means, connected to said central processing means, for

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terminating the line during the loop test in response to the detection of the Loop Test Message by the detecting means”) (claim 26: “in response to the receipt of a Loop Test Message, terminating the telephone line with an impedance in order to connect the call back to the loop test server”).

In the rejection of claims 1, 20, and 26, the Examiner does not identify any disclosure in either Zitting or Pugaczewski that is contended to be a Loop Test Message in the GR-30 format, let alone the use of such a message to allow a loop test to be initiated. Nor have Applicants identified such disclosure in their review of the references. Absent such disclosure, Applicants submit that there is no basis on which the rejection can be maintained.

With regard to claim 16, that claim states that test signals originate at the central location, are reflected by the customer premises, and the reflected signals received back at the central location (“sending test signals from the central location on the telephone line, and receiving at the central location signals reflected back on the telephone line from the customer premises”). The Examiner does not purport to find disclosure of this feature in Zitting, but rather in Pugaczewski. However, Pugaczewski is the opposite of the feature recited in claim 16. That is, the test signals in Pugaczewski originate at the customer premises, and are reflected back by the central office. (E.g., Abstract: “A method for qualifying a local loop for digital subscriber line service includes transmitting signals from a customer modem and receiving corresponding reflected signals. The loop qualification test is initiated at the customer side, with the test result for the loop qualification test being based on reflected signals that correspond to signals transmitted over the loop from the modem.”) Given that neither Zitting nor Pugaczewski discloses this feature of claim 16, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, which action is requested.

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06-1050, reference 10200-005001.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kurt L. Glitzenstein', written over a horizontal line.

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Date: June 2, 2005

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